

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A nozzle of a laser processing head for laser cutting and laser welding, the nozzle comprising:
 - a laser beam outlet for directing a laser beam towards a processing location of a workpiece to be processed;
 - a first gas supply channel for supplying a cutting gas towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed when the laser processing head is used for laser cutting; ~~and~~
 - a second gas supply channel for supplying a welding gas towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed when the laser processing head is used for laser welding;
 - an inner sleeve through which the laser beam passes; and
 - an outer sleeve surrounding the inner sleeve;
 - wherein a first annular cavity is defined between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve and
 - wherein the outer sleeve defines a second annular cavity arranged essentially concentrically with the first cavity.

2. (Currently amended) The nozzle of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
 - ~~an inner sleeve through which the laser beam passes; and~~
 - ~~an outer sleeve surrounding the inner sleeve, wherein a the first cavity is formed between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve~~ fluidly coupled to the first gas supply channel, and wherein the outer sleeve ~~includes a second cavity arranged concentrically with the first cavity~~ is fluidly coupled to the second gas supply channel.

3. (Currently amended) The nozzle of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the first cavity is formed by a first annular gap between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve and wherein the second cavity is formed by a second annular gap formed in the outer sleeve.

4. (Currently amended) The nozzle of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the first cavity is formed by an annular channel from which a bore extends to a side of the nozzle.

5. (Currently amended) The nozzle of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the second cavity is formed by an annular channel from which a bore extends to a side of the nozzle.

6. (Original) The nozzle of claim 3, wherein the first annular gap merges into the first gas supply channel and the second annular gap merges into the second gas supply channel.

7. (Original) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising a channel for supplying a stream of pressurized gas into the laser processing head in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the laser beam.

8. (Original) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising a mirror for reflecting the laser beam towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed.

9. (Original) The nozzle of claim 8, wherein the mirror is a parabolic focusing mirror.

10. (Original) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising:
a mirror for reflecting the laser beam towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed; and

a channel for supplying a stream of pressurized gas into the laser processing head in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the laser beam, wherein the stream of pressurized gas is supplied into the processing head between the mirror and the laser beam outlet.

11. (Currently amended) A method for laser processing of a workpiece, the method comprising:

directing a laser beam through ~~[[a]]~~ an inner sleeve of a processing nozzle of a laser processing head to a processing location of a workpiece;

supplying a cutting gas towards the processing location through a first gas supply channel of the nozzle and through a first annular cavity defined between the inner sleeve and an outer sleeve that surrounds the inner sleeve when the laser processing head is used for laser cutting; and

supplying a welding gas towards the processing location through a second gas supply channel of the nozzle and through a second annular cavity defined within the outer sleeve and being essentially concentric with the first cavity when the laser processing head is used for laser cutting; and

~~supplying a stream of pressurized gas in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the laser beam.~~

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the cutting gas and the welding gas are supplied concentrically around the laser beam.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the laser beam is a CO₂ laser beam.

14. (New) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the inner sleeve defines a beam guiding chamber that opens into an outlet, and the first cavity is fluidly coupled to the outlet.

15. (New) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the second annular cavity is defined within the outer sleeve.

Applicant : Michael Wessner
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16. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising supplying a stream of pressurized gas in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the laser beam.